



LOUISIANA SENATE

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SEN. HEWITT ANNOUNCES CELEBRATION OF COMPETITIVE ROBOTICS PROGRAMS FROM ACROSS LOUISIANA

1st ANNUAL FESTIVAL DE ROBOTIQUE SET FOR MAY 25TH

District 1 State Senator Sharon Hewitt (R- Slidell) is pleased to announce the first annual **Louisiana Festival de Robotique** to be held **Thursday May 25, 2017** at the **State Capitol Welcome Center** in Baton Rouge from **10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.** with **special demonstrations** from **11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** The free event, sponsored by Dow and *FIRST* Robotics, showcases some of the state's brightest students who excel in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) disciplines as they and their robots compete in what *FIRST* Robotics calls "the ultimate Sport for the Mind."

"I am so excited about this event. It is a great opportunity for students from across the state to demonstrate their STEM skills and to exhibit the results of their hard work and team-building skills developed over the last weeks. It also gives lawmakers at the legislative session and the public in the Baton Rouge area a chance to see first-hand how a focus on STEM education can make a difference in students' lives," Sen. Hewitt said.

Sen. Hewitt is the author of Senate Bill 225 which has been approved by the Senate and is awaiting a committee hearing in the House. Senate Bill 225 creates the Louisiana Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Advisory Council under the purview of the Board of Regents. The new advisory council is charged with the responsibility of creating, delivering and promoting STEM education programs and aligning those programs with industry and workforce needs. The measure also creates a special STEM Education Fund to receive state dollars or private donations for the STEM education effort and requires the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) to establish a STEM diploma endorsement for high achieving STEM students.

The students participating in the Louisiana Festival de Robotique are among the over 83,000 students involved in the 2017 *FIRST* Robotics Competition across the globe. *FIRST* (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) is a non-profit organization founded in 1989 to encourage young people's interest and participation in science and technology education and STEM careers.

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